

MARCH 2017

# Voice of St. George

SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
OF THE DESERT

74-109 LARREA ST., PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA



Inside this issue

## FEELINGS

Morris Albert's love song in 1974, *Feelings*, became a big hit: "*Feelings, nothing more than feelings; trying to forget my feelings of love...*" By 1974, *feelings* served as topics in ever-growing group-therapy sessions: from grief counseling to marriage counseling. Since then, *feelings* seem to have a center stage in terms of understanding our relationships with others.

On the emotional level, the Greek word "*pathos*" ["*passion*"] serves as a synonym for the word *feeling*. Hence, feelings that are not dealt with in healthy ways take on names like *psychopathy* (personality disorder) and *sociopathy* (antisocial behavior).

Call them "*feelings*" or "*passions*," how they are dealt with and expressed makes worlds of difference in terms of where we go with life.

Lent is a season that calls us to think about the direction of our lives, it's a good season to think about our feelings. Where do they come from? How do we deal with them? Why should we care about them?

Feelings on an emotional level come from various sources. Among them we would suggest that feelings come from our perception of things around us. At the same time, feelings arise from both a comprehension of reality, as well as from deceptions. Our fantasies and imaginations help to make up our feelings. Feelings arise out of simple temptations, as well as from inspirations. Indeed, feelings come from within our physical frame of being.

Since decisions that we make in life—actions and words that make or break us—are connected to our feelings, Great Lent is a

perfect season to be watchful over our feelings and take care of where they may take us. While, indeed, feelings make us human, as God intended, the experience of our Saints remind us that they can take us either to irresponsible, neglectful celebrations, or they can cause us to spiral into destruction. St. John of the Ladder (commemorated on **March 26th**) writes, "*In every feeling [emotion, passion], and also in the virtues themselves, let us critically examine ourselves: Where are we? Are we in something good, or evil? (Ladder of Divine Ascent, pg.212).*"

The writings of our Orthodox Christian Saints are a treasure trove from which one can acquire knowledge regarding the "hows and whys" of dealing with our feelings. First, we find that many Saints referred to feelings as "fleeting clouds" - here today; gone tomorrow.

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Athanasios the Great, who suffered repeated exiles from his Church in Alexandria, was asked how he felt: *"It's but a fleeting cloud that comes and is gone."* This reflects an inner attitude based on a vision of one's final destiny. In the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, *"we ask for a good defense at the awesome Judgment Seat of Christ."*

With this in mind, St. Isaac the Syrian writes, *"Rising above our feelings, or 'passionlessness,' does not mean not feeling passions, but not accepting them. Thanks to many and varied virtues acquired by the Saints, passions lost power in them and so could not easily be roused to infect the soul."* (Philokalia: Prayer of the Heart, pg. 254). Among these "varied virtues" is that of *forgiveness*. For St. Theophan the Recluse, the virtue of forgiveness overtakes the feelings of resentment: *"You think of a person who has offended you. This very thought wounds the soul, stirring up a storm of enmity and revengefulness. But, when your soul is always ready to forgive offences...no matter how vividly the idea of the offender enters the mind, there is no response in the soul."* (The Art of Prayer, pg. 213). The key point, in sum, is that Christian virtues overshadow the momentary feelings that can take hold of people and create in them passions, driving them to behaviors contrary to God's Will.

While prayer protects against "distraction", it is also the weapon against passions. St. Mark the Ascetic (commemorated **March 5th**), was aware that his feelings often got in the way of his prayers. Given a choice as to whether he wanted his feelings to consume him, or to pray for God's guidance, he resigned himself to choose the value of prayer over other distractions. He writes, *"If you wish to gain victory over passions, enter within yourself through prayer and God will help you."* (The Art of Prayer, pg. 200).

Dealing with our feelings by developing *Christian virtues* and *through prayer* allows Christ our God to guide us in overcoming temptations. This leads us to *"The peace from above"* and *"Peace in the world,"* - and ultimately the salvation of the souls of both self and neighbor through the Crucified and Resurrected God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

+FR. THEODORE

## CATECHETICAL ENCYCLICAL BEGINNING OF GREAT LENT



Great Lent is a period of constant contrition before the mystery of God that daily unfolds before us, the mystery of our salvation. This is why the opportunity granted to us with the Sacred Fast has a special characteristic: the **renewal** and **vigilance** of the soul that is called for during this time filled with divine exhortation and sanctity to become aware of the ephemeral and material, while gradually being transferred to the eternal and spiritual.

Symbolically and summarily, the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete addresses its author as well as every soul troubled and distressed by the temptations and distractions of this life. Conscious of the burden carried by a soul wounded by sin, St. Andrew cries out with anguish: *"My soul, my soul, arise; why do you sleep?"* This **cry** leads to the **realization** of vanity and the inexpressible fear of death: *"The end is near and [my soul] will be troubled."* Before the unexpected end of life that comes *"like a thief in the night,"* the illumined Cretan poet invites himself and every soul suffering and consumed by the fear of insecurity to *"awaken in order that Christ our God, who is ever present and fills all things, may take care of us."*

The Orthodox patristic teaching calls each of us, during this period of struggle, to recognize *"who we are, where we are, and where we are headed."* We are called to realize the vanity of this temporary life and repent for all that we have hitherto done *"in knowledge or in ignorance, in word or deed, in action and in all our senses"* contrary to the Gospel of Christ and the law of grace. Only then shall we find mercy and grace; and only then will the Lord, who knows hearts and minds as well as the innermost secrets and thoughts of human beings, take care of us and forgive our unjust thoughts that lead us to vain and useless deeds.

The struggle that lies before us culminates in **vigilance, renewal** and **repentance**. Through

*Continued on the next page - - - - ->*

*CATECHETICAL ENCYCLICAL, continued*

**repentance**, namely by coming to know our condition, and through confession, our life is crowned with “forgiveness of sins, communion of the Holy Spirit, and fullness of the heavenly kingdom.” This **renewal** is identified with the **conscience** of the repentant soul (see 2 Cor. 1.12 and Rom. 2.15) and is a **gift** of God.

**Brothers and children in the Lord**, we Orthodox Christians are called to live the period of Holy and Great Lent as a time of conscientious renewal and vigilance, as an eternal moment of our Orthodox identity. That is to say, we are called to live and experience Christ Himself, to love and experience Him ecclesiastically and spiritually. For it is only through our life in Christ that we have the possibility to renew our conscience and ascend to the level of true freedom and the infallible criteria for our consolation and salvation.

At the opening of this blessed period, the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Great Church of Christ spiritually visit every Orthodox Christian soul that labors without consolation and is laden by the values and pleasures of the flesh and this world; we travel with and pray to “the King of kings and Lord of lords, who comes to be slaughtered and given as food to the faithful.” O Lord, deem worthy all Orthodox faithful in peace and contrition of heart, that they may journey through this sacred period and the arena that opens up before us, “granting grace and strength to all, that they may reach their goal and courageously walk the way to the festive day of Your Resurrection in order that they may be crowned with joy and ceaselessly give praise.” (Poem of Theodore, Triodion)

We bless all of you paternally, beloved and faithful children of the Mother Church. And united with you in prayer and intercession, we invoke upon all the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, through the intercessions of our Lady Theotokos, the holy angels and all the saints, so that all of us may be worthy of our calling to live as Orthodox Christians and thus enjoy the delight

and glory of our Lord’s Resurrection. To Him belong the might, thanksgiving, honor, power and glory, to the ages of ages. Amen.

Holy and Great Lent 2017

**+ BARTHOLOMEW OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

Your fervent supplicant before God

**PRO-LIFE PRAYER DEMONSTRATION**

On Saturday, February 11th, as part of a national effort to remind people throughout the world that abortion is a grave sin, members of various Christian churches gathered in prayer.

On a local basis, members of our general Christian community gathered at the Rancho Mirage Planned Parenthood facility. Representing our St. George parish, **Louise Dobbs Barringer** (pictured below in the center), participated by leading in prayers for us all to respect human life as a gift from God – to respect all human life from the time of conception to that of natural death.



**SACRAMENTS IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY-**

Many blessings to the following:

Wedding: January 22nd – Kathy Kottas & Jared Thiele from New York City. Andrea Kottas, koumbara.

Baptism: February 4th- Kathy Amos. Alice Pulos, Godparent

Baptism: February 18th- Maximos Damron, son of Kathryn & Mark Damron (from L.A.). Christian Naylor, (uncle), Godparent

## 2017 ST. GEORGE GREEK FESTIVAL



### Festival Preparation Day

Preparations for this year's 2017 Greek Festival were massive. We offer great gratitude to Christ our God for bringing to our parish members individuals with a wealth of talent. We are appreciative to workers from Victory Outreach and the Cathedral City High School for their help.

### Letter of Gratitude to All Festival Volunteers

*"The Parish Council of St. George, together with George Argyros, Festival Chairman, would like to extend their heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all the parish members and their friends for their unselfish volunteer work in preparing the Festival food and the long hours of work the weekend of the Festival.*

*Your love and dedication to our Church is truly appreciated.*

*Yours in Christ,*

*Fr. Theodore Pantels, George Argyros (Festival Chairman) and Nick Krespis (Parish Council President)."*

### Appreciation Dinner

The Appreciation Dinner was held in honor of this year's Festival volunteers on Monday, February 27th. George Argyros expressed his sincere gratitude to everyone for their support through which this year's Festival was a great event. Fr. Ted stated that the dedication and hard work of the volunteers served as an inspiration for him, reminding him of the great love that the parishioners have for their Church.

### Preliminary Report (Non-Financial)

Our Festival was very well attended (see "Festival Photos"). As a result, gross income came in much like last year (finances will be reported at the parish Spring General Assembly meeting). The carts that were acquired to assist with transportation to and from area parking lots proved to be a very popular and necessary addition to the Festival. The Religious Store featuring ecclesiastical items and inspirational books was a welcome addition. Support for Yiayia's Attic proved to be "record breaking!"



Festival Photos: 1. George Argyros, Festival Chairman; 2. John Petalas and Doug Lyons, Festival Co-Chairman & Set-up Chairman, respectively; 3. Matthew Davis working the "Church Tours;" 4. The outside dinner/dancing arena; 5. Everybody was dancing to the Greek music. 6. The court yard by night; Not pictured: Jim Christopoulos, Festival Co-Chairman; Nick Krespis, Parish Council President.

## ST. GEORGE ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

The Saint George of the Desert Endowment Fund has seen good returns during January, 2017 growing 1.2% for the month with a \$3,453.09 increase in value. This brings its total current balance to **\$291,688.98**. There were \$150.00 in donations for the month. The standard 1% administration charge for the quarter was deducted by The Resource Group, our plan administrator, which is the standard, charged to a church based organization.

### Our current Asset Allocation follows the Fund's by-laws as shown below:

Domestic Equities	\$145,336.77	50%
Domestic Fixed Income	\$122,609.19	42%
International Equities	\$ 20,642.05	7%
Cash & Equivalents	\$ 3,100.97	1%

**Parishioners are always welcome to donate by check to the Endowment Fund through the St George parish office with "St George of the Desert Endowment Fund" written on the Memo Line of the check. Remember the Church in your estate planning.**

### Markets Rise, Markets Fall.

Citi Research strategists told investors Donald Trump's economic agenda will boost corporate earnings this year and result in higher stock prices.

The combination of planned tax cuts (both corporate and personal), light-handed regulation, a repatriation tax holiday on overseas cash and possible infrastructure spending has buoyed hopes for faster economic and earnings growth in 2017 into 2018.

Corporate profits look poised to increase in 2017 and 2018 due in part to easing bank lending standards, a rebound in small-business optimism, tax cuts and energy sector recovery.

The strategists said if the corporate tax rate is lowered to 20 percent from the current effective rate of 27 percent, it would add \$12 a year to S&P 500 earnings per share. As a result they raised the 2017

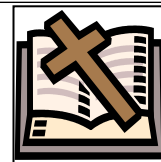
market earnings-per-share forecast to \$131 from \$129, representing 9 percent annual earnings growth from 2016.

None the less, since there are still more questions than answers regarding the details, **we need to be prepared for a more volatile ride as 2017 unfolds.**

The Resource Group, who manages the fund, assesses the Fund an Advisory Fee 1% or \$722.02/qtr on the current balance which is considered low by industry standards which is 2%. In addition, the funds have no load. Although there are funds available in the Index Fund arenas, I feel our risk is better mitigated on inevitable downturns through our existing funds and their current Beta or risk factors.

You will see continued explanations of the by-laws in the quarterly Endowment Fund reports.  
—NICK LATKOVIC,  
Endowment Fund Chairman

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



Our Sunday School classes resume on Sunday, March 5th, as we settle back into a regular schedule following the 2017 Festival during the last weekend of February.

The students in Deacon Euthym's class hosted a special guest: Dr. Philip Mamalakis, the professor of Pastoral Theology at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary in Massachusetts. Dr. Mamalakis is the son-in-law of Dorothea and George Lambros, who are "snowbirds" of our parish, joining us in this Lenten season from Montana. Dr. Mamalakis' wife (George and Dorothea's daughter) is Georgia.

In his contribution to the Antiochian Orthodox Christian website, Dr. Mamalakis writes, "*Kids are more likely to feel at home at church if their home feels more like a church. If we are singing Church hymns at home, our kids will feel a familiarity when the hymns are sung at Church. Lent is a time to consider coming together as a family before the icons instead of before the television.*"

## FUNDRAISER FOR CHARITY

The **Feast Day of the Annunciation, March 25th**, is a great opportunity to come together as a parish family for charity. Lunch following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy will, in turn, feature fellowship and prizes, which will turn into gifts for the poor in our Coachella Valley. The designated charities to be benefitted from this event are: **Coachella Valley Rescue Mission** and the **Street Life Project of Coachella Valley**.

We hope to make this an annual special event as we journey through Great Lent, while at the same time, on the Feast of the Annunciation, we commemorate the Most Holy Mother of God. The lunch and fellowship program are open to all. For planning purposes, contact **Pam Zeverdas** and/or **Fr. Ted** for R.S.V.P. and details.

## ORTHODOX FUNERAL PLOTS

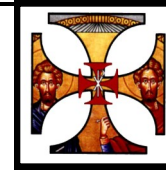
Update: **The Desert Memorial Park Cemetery** is in the process of constructing a new section to be dedicated for the Orthodox Jewish community. Along side that area, we are hoping to designate a section for Orthodox Christians. This is a new development, which has stalled the previously-stated plans to establish an Orthodox section at the cemetery. As this new area continues to be developed over the next few weeks, arrangements will be made for parishioners to view this area.

## 2017 ST. GEORGE GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Dates: April 21-22, 2017**....Everyone is asked to see the enclosed flier announcing our **parish name day celebration (April 23)** with **His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos** and the celebratory **St. George Golf Tournament**. The official golf tournament registration form and corresponding dinner reservation form will be available on March 8th in our parish office and will be mailed out during the same week. These forms will also be posted in our parish weekly bulletin, *The Ladder*, as well as on our parish website : [www.go-stgeorge.org](http://www.go-stgeorge.org).

To volunteer help toward the success of our Golf Tournament, contact the tournament chairman, **George Argyros**.

## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS



### March SAVE THE DATE!

Our annual Membership Lunch will be on Saturday, March 18, 2017 at Kalitsa Xitco's home. Invitations have been sent out and Carol Lyons will be at the Philoptochos table in the hall on Sunday, March 5 and 12 to take your reservations. Please consider becoming a member. We know you may still be working or have young children but come to our Membership Luncheon to meet and talk with our members. We donate to many charities and worthwhile projects. See the poster in the hall listing Philoptochos' activities. We gave over \$18,500 to these projects in 2016.

We will have a Board Meeting on Monday, March 13 at 11:00 a.m. We will not have a General Meeting this month due to the Membership Luncheon.

We plan to bake bread and cookies for the Easter Bake Sale the week of March 27 - March 31. Please volunteer! Specific dates and times will be announced.

### April

The Easter Bake Sale will be on Sunday, April 2 and Sunday, April 9.

Our Board Meeting will on Monday, April 3 at 11:00 a.m.

Coming up in April we will have elections for the new Board. Elections will take place on Monday, April 17 at 11:30 a.m. It is important to attend this meeting. If you are interested in being nominated for a position on the Board see our Nominating Committee Chairperson Alice Pulos.

### Future Dates

1. Board Meeting - Monday, March 13 at 11:00 a.m.
2. Membership Lunch - Saturday, March 18 at 12:00 p.m.

*Continued on the next page - - - - ->*

*PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS, continued*

3. Baking for the Easter Bake Sale will be March 27 - March 31
4. April Board Meeting - Monday, April 3 at 11:00 a.m.
5. Easter Bake Sale - April 2 and April 9
6. April General Meeting - Monday, April 17 at 11:30 a.m. Elections!
7. The Metropolitan visits the weekend of the Golf Tournament April 21 - April 23.  
– LINDA KALLIS,  
Philoptochos President

**AHEPA NEWS**

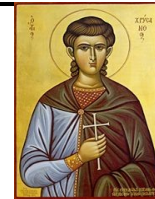
The "AHEPA Booth" at this year's Greek Festival proved to be another success. The "baklava ice cream cones" sold out. The sales of the various spices, such as oregano, were also good. Special thanks to all the members of AHEPA 528 for helping to make this year's AHEPA Festival booth successful.

The news from the District 20 Winter Conference in Tucson, Arizona, held on February 25th, is that the District 20 Summer Conference will be held in **Indian Wells on June 23-24th** at the **Indian Wells Hyatt**. Registration forms will be available at upcoming Chapter 528 meetings.

Applications for the **Fr. T. P. Theophilos Memorial Scholarship** are now being accepted. The deadline for submitting applications is **April 1, 2017**. Application forms are available on line at: [www.ahepa528.org](http://www.ahepa528.org). Forms are also available in the parish hall and may also be obtained from Fr. Ted.

AHEPA Chapter 528 is continuing efforts in support of raising funds to assist in the construction of the Archdiocese St. Nicholas National Shrine in New York City.

The next AHEPA Chapter 528 meeting is scheduled for **Monday, March 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.** AHEPA meetings will now take place on the 2nd Monday of each month.

**SAINTS OF THE MONTH:  
ST. CHRYSANTHUS & DARIA;  
ST. MATRONA OF  
THESSALONIKA**


St.Chrysanthus



St. Matrona

Saint Chrysanthus, who was from Alexandria, had been instructed in the Faith of Christ by a certain bishop. His father, who was a senator by rank and a pagan, had him shut up in prison for many days; then, seeing the unchanging disposition of his mind, he commanded that a certain young woman named Daria be brought from Athens. She was a very beautiful and learned maiden, and also an idolater, and Chrysanthus' father wedded him to her so that he might be drawn away from the Faith of Christ because of his love for her. Instead of this, however, Chrysanthus drew Daria unto piety, and both of them boldly proclaimed Christ and received the crown of martyrdom in 283, being buried alive in a pit of mire, during the reign of Numerian.

St. Matrona was the servant of a certain Jewish woman named Pantilla, the wife of the Governor of Thessalonica. After her conversion to Christ, she was fervent in her commitment to Christ and in her desire to have others follow Christ. When Matrona refused to follow her mistress into the synagogue Pantilla beat her so severely that she died in a few days, and thus received the crown of her confession. According to archaeological evidence and various written sources, the monastery of St. Matrona is one of the first three monasteries of Thessaloniki. In addition, some historical evidence point to the fact that, until the beginning of iconoclasm (726), there is reference to a "monastery of Saint Matrona, located outside the walls of Thessaloniki, which had strong fortifications. It existed about the end of the sixth and the beginning of the seventh century.

## SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mark **Sunday, March 19, 2017** on your calendar and plan to join us for our St. George Spring General Assembly Meeting. We ask one and all to remember that in order to participate in the General Assembly proceedings, one must be a Stewardship member of the parish. Questions pertaining to one's individual Stewardship participation and/or the general Stewardship ministry of our parish may directed to members of our Parish Council or Rhonda Latkovic, Stewardship Chairperson.

Mailing containing the agenda items, financial reports and general reports will be sent out soon.

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

1. The preliminary 2017 Festival Report was discussed. Gross income was comparable to last year's Festival.
2. Jim Christopoulos honored as past President.
3. Strategic Plan for parish future income.
4. St. George Golf Tournament. Registration and Reservation forms will be sent out next week.
5. Discussion ensued regarding renewing the lease for the rental next door to the church.
6. Metropolitan Gerasimos' Visit to our parish and Parish Feast Day program.
7. The agenda items for the General Assembly were discussed:
  - a. Minutes of the Fall General Assembly.
  - b. Financial Reports
  - d. 2017 Festival Report
  - e. Stewardship Report
  - f. Audit Report
  - g. Endowment Fund
  - h. Strategic Plan
  - i. Parish Bylaws Amendments
  - j. Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly
  - k. Parish Feast Day & Golf Tournament

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. the men of our parish may participate in a weekly Bible Study group. The Bible Study passages will include the Old Testament readings from the Presanctified Divine Liturgy services of Great Lent. Listed below are the passages that will be reviewed during our weekly Bible Studies:

Mar. 7...Genesis 1:24-2:3. (1) How was humanity created? (2) What is the role of humanity in the world? (3) What is significant about the "Day of Rest?"

Mar. 14...Genesis 4:16-26. (1) From where did Cain's sin come? (2) Did Cain ever repent of his sin and, if so, how; if not, why? (3) What is significant about Seth's birth? (4) How does this passage relate to our lives today?

Mar. 21...Genesis 7: 6-9 and Genesis 9:18-29. (1) What made Noah a righteous man? (2) What does this passage show about our relationship with animals and the environment as a whole? (3) Why did Noah condemn Canaan and praise Shem and Japheth; what does this passage mean for us today? (4) What can be said of Noah's long life?

Mar. 28...Genesis 17: 1-9. (1) What is significant about Abraham's faith compared to the Law of Moses? (2) What was the purpose of circumcision? (3) What tradition for new-born children was established between God and Abraham and is still followed in the Orthodox Church today? What is the significance of this tradition?

April 5...Job 2:1-10. (1) What is the main message taken from the life of Job? (2) What does this passage mean in terms of endurance in times of trial? (3) What kept Job from committing sin?

There will be no Bible Study during Holy Week nor during the following week (Bright Week).



**THE HOLY & GREAT COUNCIL OF THE  
ORTHODOX CHURCH— *Excerpt from:*  
The Church's Role in Today's World Events**

The Church does not involve herself with politics in the narrow sense of the term. Her witness, however, is essentially political insofar as it expresses concern for man and his spiritual freedom. *The voice of the Church was always distinct and will ever remain a beneficial intervention for the sake of humanity.* The local Orthodox Churches are today called to promote a new constructive synergy with the secular state and its rule of law within the new framework of international relations, in accordance with the biblical saying: "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's" (cf. Matt 22.21). This synergy must, however, preserve the specific identity of both Church and state and ensure their earnest cooperation in order to preserve man's unique dignity and the human rights which flow therefrom, and in order to assure social justice.

*Human rights* are today at the center of political debate as a response to contemporary social and political crises and upheavals and in order to protect the freedom of the individual. The approach to human rights on the part of the Orthodox Church centers on the danger of individual rights falling into individualism and a culture of "rights". A perversion of this kind functions at the expense of the social content of freedom and leads to the arbitrary transformation of rights into claims for happiness, as well as the elevation of the precarious identification of freedom with individual license into a "universal value" that undermines the foundations of social values, of the family, of religion, of the nation and threatens fundamental moral values.

Accordingly, the Orthodox understanding of man is opposed both to the arrogant apotheosis of the individual and his rights, and to the humiliating debasement of the human person within the vast contemporary structures of economy, society, politics and communication. The tradition of Orthodoxy is an inexhaustible source of vital truths for mankind. No one has honored man and cared for

him as much as the God-man Christ and his Church. A fundamental human right is the protection of the principle of religious freedom in all aspects--namely, the freedom of conscience, belief, and religion, including, alone and in community, in private and in public, the right to freedom of worship and practice, the right to manifest one's religion, as well as the right of religious communities to religious education and to the full function and exercise of their religious duties, without any form of direct or indirect interference by the state.

[However]...The Orthodox Church is particularly concerned about the situation facing Christians, and other persecuted ethnic and religious minorities in the Middle East. In particular, she addresses an appeal to governments in that region to protect the Christian populations - Orthodox, Ancient Eastern and other Christians - who have survived in the cradle of Christianity. The indigenous Christian and other populations enjoy the inalienable right to remain in their countries as citizens with equal rights.

We therefore urge all parties involved, irrespective of religious convictions, to work for reconciliation and respect for human rights, first of all through the protection of the divine gift of life...  
—*Encyclical of the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church, [www.holycouncil.org](http://www.holycouncil.org), Par.VI, v.16 & 18*

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE—**

We would like to express our gratitude towards the stewards of our church who have made a 2017 pledge to our church. As of **March 1st, 2017**, we have **81** stewards (families) in total who have turned in a pledge card. The pledge total year-to-date is **\$96,330** towards our goal of **\$115,000**. This is a **+14%** increase over last year for this time frame.

There are about 23 parishioners who pledged last year, but have not yet turned in a pledge card to the office for this year. The stewardship committee members will communicate with those parishioners in the near future to inquire about a pledge for 2017.

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*STEWARDSHIP UPDATE, continued*

Thank you to everyone for their wonderful support of our beautiful church!

– RHONDA LATKOVIC,  
Stewardship Chairperson

**HOLY CONFESSION SERVICES**

The Sacrament of Holy Confession is scheduled to take place on **Mondays at 10:00 a.m.** throughout the Lenten Season.

Participants may participate in the Sacrament of Confession on an individual basis at this time. Should Mondays be inconvenient, appointments can be made with Fr. Ted according to one's availability.

To prepare for Holy Confession, study the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20: 1-17) and the Beatitudes (St. Matthew 5: 1-12).

**ICON FLOWERS FOR LENTEN SERVICES**

As with every year, the icon for the Friday night **Salutation and Akathist Hymn Services** is lovingly decorated with flowers. If interested, contact Fr. Ted and Lula Valissarakos so that a schedule can be created, whereby participants can take turns a week at a time decorating the icon throughout Lent.

Also, basil plants and a collection of individual flowers are needed to decorate the Holy Cross for **Sunday, Marcy 19th** when we will participate in the Service for the Veneration of the Holy Cross.

**ADULT COLORING SESSION & LUNCHEON**

**When: Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>@ noon-2pm**

**Where: St. George church hall**

**RSVP: By March 12<sup>h</sup> to Rhonda Latkovic**

**Lunch will be served at noon with coloring to follow. A \$5.00 minimum donation is requested. Lunch will be a Valentine theme menu. There will also be a raffle. Coloring supplies provided. Please join us!**

**St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert**  
**74-109 Larrea St. / P.O. Box 4755**  
**Palm Desert, California 92261**  
**web: [www.go-stgeorge.org/](http://www.go-stgeorge.org/) email: [pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com)**  
**Telephone: (760)568-9901 / FAX: 9760) 568-9492**

# MARCH 2017

<b>Schedule of Sunday Services:</b> <b>Orthros-8:30 a.m.</b> <b>Divine Liturgy-9:30 a.m.</b> <b>Sunday School- 10:30 a.m.</b>			1  Presanctified Divine Liturgy- 6:30 p.m.	2  Choir Practice-1:00 p.m. Parish Council- 6:30 p.m.	3 Presanctified Divine Liturgy- 9:00 a.m.  1st Salutations- 7:00 p.m.	4 SATURDAY OF SOULS Orthros-8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy- 9:30 a.m.  Vespers-5:00 p.m.
5 <b>ORTHODOXY SUNDAY</b> <b>(Procession of Icons)</b> <b>Ep.-2 Timothy 3:10-15</b> <b>Gos.-St. Luke 18: 10-14</b>	6  Sacrament of Holy Confession- 10:00 a.m	7  Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.  Men's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	8 - Knitting Class- 5:30 p.m.  Presanctified Liturgy-6:30 p.m.	9  Choir Practice-1:00 p.m.	10 Presanctified Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m.  2nd Salutations- 7:00 p.m.	11  Vespers-5:00 p.m.
12 <b>St. Gregory Palamas</b> <b>Ep.-Heb. 1:10-14;2:1-3</b> <b>Gos.- St. Mark 2: 1-12</b>	13 Sacrament of Holy Confession- 10:00 a.m. Philoptochos Board Meeting—11:00 a.m.  AHEPA Meeting 6:30 p.m.	14  Bible Study-10:00 a.m.  Men's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	15  Knitting Class- 5:30 p.m.  Presanctified Liturgy-6:30 p.m.	16  Choir Practice-1:00 p.m.	17 Presanctified Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m.  3rd Salutations- 7:00 p.m.	18 Philoptochos Membership Tea: 12:00 noon  Vespers-5:00 p.m.
19 <b>Veneration of the Holy Cross</b> <b>(Strict Fasting Day)</b>  <b>GENERAL ASSEMBLY</b>	20  Sacrament of Holy Confession- 10:00 a.m.	21  Bible Study-10:00 a.m  Men's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	22  Knitting Class- 5:30 p.m.  Presanctified Liturgy-6:30 p.m.	23  Choir Practice-1:00 p.m.	24 Presanctified Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m. Great Vespers- 6:00 p.m. 4th Salutations- 7:00 p.m.	<b>25- ANNUNCIATION</b> Orthros-8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy- <u>9:30 a.m.</u> Coachella Valley Charity Lunch & Fundraiser- <u>11:00 a.m</u>  Vespers-5:00 p.m
26 <b>St. John Climacus</b> <b>Ep.-Heb. 6:13-20</b> <b>Gos.-St. Mark 9:17-31</b>	27 Sacrament of Holy Confession- 10:00 a.m.	28  Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.  Men's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	29  Knitting Class 5:30 p.m.  Presanctified	30  Choir Practice-1:00 p.m.	31 Presanctified Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m.  Akathist Hymn- 7:00 p.m.	<u>APRIL 1</u>  No Vespers



*You are cordially invited  
to attend the*

*St. George Philoptochos*

*Membership Luncheon*

*March 18, 2017*

*12:00 in the afternoon*

*At The Home of Kalitsa Xitco*

*753 Mission Creek Drive,*

*Palm Desert, CA 92211*

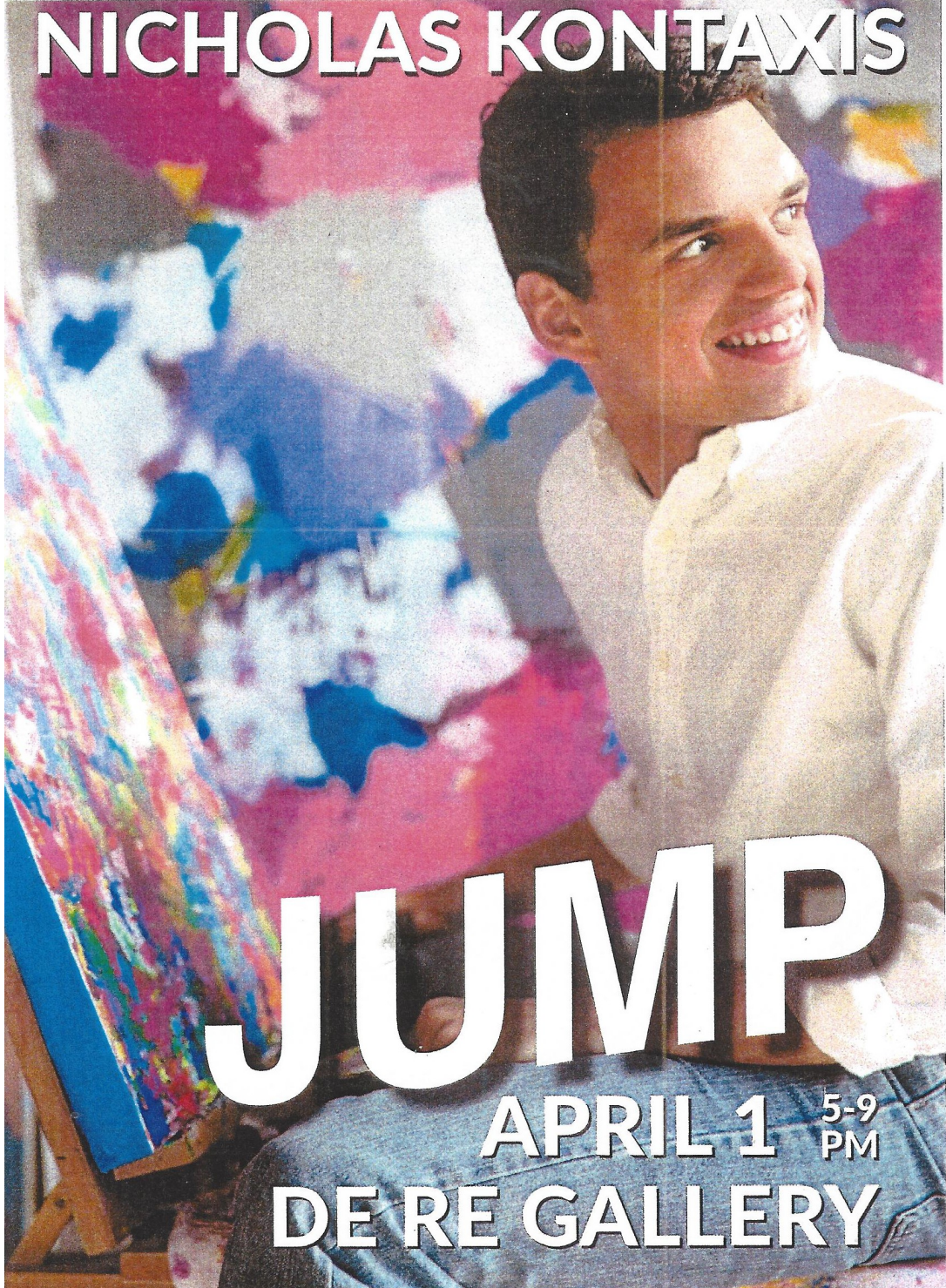
*Please R.S.V.P. to*

*Carol Lyons 760-200-8509*

*Directions to Kalitsa's Home: Take  
Country Club Drive to Indian Ridge  
Country Club and ask guard for directions.*

*Kalitsa's phone: 760-200-9495*

NICHOLAS KONTAXIS



# JUMP

APRIL 1 5-9 PM

DE RE GALLERY



**ITS MY TURN**  
16x20 - Heavy Body Acrylic



8373 melrose los angeles. ca. 310.205.7959



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Sunday, April 23, 2017**

**FEAST DAY OF ST. GEORGE**

**HOSTING:**

**HIS EMINENCE,**

**METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS**

**of**

**SAN FRANCISCO**

**On the occasion of the:**

**20th ANNIVERSARY OF CELEBRATING OUR PATRON SAINT IN OUR  
ST. GEORGE PARISH CHURCH EDIFACE!**

**THIS CELEBRATION INCLUDES:**

**St. George Golf Tournament at Desert Willow**

**Golf Resort in Palm Desert: Friday and Saturday, April 21-22.**

**April 21, 2017: Friday afternoon golf followed by steak dinner  
at the church.**

**April 22, 2017: Saturday morning golf followed by Greek-style  
dinner at the church...live music, dancing and fun!**

**More details and information to follow in the months ahead.**

**JOIN US!**